Bernstein 1/22/12

Dear Carl,

After telling you I'd phone you torrow when I'm in D.C., I realized that you have a good chance of being busy tomorrow and with any luck I have little chance of not being busy then or when I return home. I still work seven days each week and in the past week they have run as long as 20 hours.

So, I write, if writing does not permit answering any questions you might have.

From a friend in books I got a report that an unnamed Washington Post reporter is planning a Watergate book in collaboration with Bill Turner, of Ramparts. Although this friend is far away and my means are limited, I undertook to learn more by phone. He says there is not much he can add.

I plan no Watergate Book and I'm unpublishable on almost any subject. I've not tried motherhood, I must confess. So, I have no selfish interest in this. I would welcome all the responsible books on the subject that can come out and even look forward to what I anticipate will be trash or worse, St. George's collaboration with Fiorini/Sturgis.

From personal experience, I know Turner, his capabilities and lack of them and his emthods. Unless you regard speaking softly and politely as a major asset, he lacks any and possesses many liabilities.

He is a professional plagiarizer and was one of the worst if not the very worst of numerous bad influencesmon Jim Garrison, who needed no such help.

I would prefer that my information be wrong. I write in case it isn't.

Turner once lifted a large part of a long Ramparts piece from one of my books, without mention of it or me. A mutual friend who chided him was told, "Once Hal publishes anything, I regard it as in the public domain." His record amply supports this. I can take you through his book on the radical right and show you the source of pretty much of what he pretends is his own derring-do investigation.

Only a former CIA man named Wood or Woods, who went by the name of Bill Boxley, could have been closer to Garrison. If you think what happened to Clay Shaw is catastrophic, it is kindness compared to what Turner and Boxley cooked up and sold to Garrison for him to commemorate the anniversary of the JFK assassination in 1968. Aside from the great cost to the man they were out to get and others, including one dead and his widow, all to be charged as assassins, the needless new national tragedy that would have resulted would have been painful to many. I don't think I will ever get over the emotional cost of breaking that deal up. It was not easy, given the little-known facts a) that Garrison and I have barely been speaking for years and b) he trusted these two more than any others, including his own staff. On that caper, Boxley came up with memos supporting Turner and Turner with "evidence" supporting Boxley. They whipsawed Garrison, and when even he could no longer avoid it, he fired Boxley and broke off with Turner. A third fink working with Boxley and for "Confidential" and the rest of their typeset toilet paper fled town.

I don't think anyone who has worked on this story for the Post needs a collaborator, one of the reasons I find it hard to credit the information I got from a good source. However, if one is, he might do worse, if he plans a Turner collaboration, than to see for himself what I have. Confidentiality is the sole condition. By the way, a Washington lawyer was with me at my invitation when I blew the third man on this deal. He will confirm that these nuts were ready to act with no more than suspicion, most of that entirely unreasonable. What I have includes some of Turner's own memos on this crap...Only an amateur thief could find any use for his professional assistance.

Good luck!